

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:
~~selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging environments;~~
transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a the selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messenger application;
receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger application;
~~retrieving the stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier;~~ and
activating the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.
2. (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the transmitting instant messaging application is an eligible instant messaging application.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier is stored on a node comprising the receiving instant messaging application.

4. (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier has expired.
5. (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including downloading the selected instant messaging environment from a source that stores the selected instant messaging environment.
6. (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the instant messaging environment identifier is transmitted with an instant message.
7. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies a background for a history window.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies an animation for a history window.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain words are included in a message.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain combinations of words are included in a message.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain emoticons are included in a message.
12. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a link.
13. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a watermark.
14. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment redefines user interface commands.
15. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that ~~whenever~~ an instant messaging environment identifier is sent.
16. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that ~~when~~ a certain function contained in an instant messaging environment is executed.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application comprising:
receiving the user interface command; and
processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment.
18. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment includes accessing a version of the user interface command that is redefined by the instant messaging environment.
19. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment includes executing instructions specified by the instant messaging environment and then executing the user interface command.
20. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command appends text to a history window and wherein the predetermined instant messaging environment changes the manner in which the text appears in the history window.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command is processed by a browser window.
22. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command is processed by a browser window.
23. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application as recited in claim 22 wherein the user interface command is contained in hidden frame.
24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:
~~selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging environments;~~
transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to ~~the a~~ a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messenger application;
receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger application;
~~retrieving the stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and~~

- activating the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.
25. (Currently Amended) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment comprising a first instant messaging application configured to:
~~select the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging environments; and~~
transmit an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to a the selected instant messaging environment; and a second instant messaging application configured to:
receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger application; and
~~retrieve the stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier;~~
activate the selected instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.
26. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:
~~selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging environments; and~~
transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to ~~the~~ a selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging

application to a receiving instant messenger application wherein the receiving instant messaging application is configured to:
receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger application;
retrieve ~~the~~ a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and
activate the retrieved instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:
selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging environments; and
transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging application to a receiving instant messenger application wherein the receiving instant messaging application is configured to:
receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger application;
retrieve ~~[[the]]~~ a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier; and
activate the retrieved instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging application.

28. (Original) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:
a memory configured to store a set of instant messaging environments;
a processor configured to select the instant messaging environment from the set of
stored instant messaging environments; and
an interface configured to transmit an instant messaging environment identifier
corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment.
29. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of implementing an instant
messaging environment comprising:
receiving an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant messenger
application;
retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant
messaging environment identifier; and
activating the retrieved instant messaging environment.
30. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing an instant
messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a
computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:
retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant
messaging environment identifier; and
activating the retrieved instant messaging environment.
31. (Currently Amended) A system for implementing an instant messaging environment
comprising:

- an interface configured to receive an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant messenger application;
- a memory configured to ~~retrieve a store~~[[d]] instant messaging environments ~~corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier~~; and
- a processor configured to retrieve from the memory a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier and to activate the retrieved instant messaging environment.
32. (Withdrawn) A computer program product for processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:
- receiving the user interface command; and
- processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment.
33. (Withdrawn) A system for processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application comprising:
- an interface configured to receive the user interface command; and
- a processor configured to process the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment.